

MINUTES
Allegheny Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association
Ellerslie Volunteer Fire Company
March 2, 2014

The regular meeting of the Allegheny Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held Sunday, March 2, 2014 and hosted by Ellerslie Vol. Fire Company. President Gene Kidwell called the meeting to order at 14:00 hours and Vice President Clarence Broadwater led the flag salute.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Calvin Walbert and reading of the 23rd Psalm in memory of Wayne Connor, Corriganville.

WELCOME: Dick DeVore, representing the host company welcomed everyone to Ellerslie. President Kidwell said it was a pleasure to be at Ellerslie.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENTS: Roll call of Departments showed 18 companies in attendance. Those not represented were: Bittinger; Bloomington; Bowman's Addition; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Ellerslie Ambulance; Flintstone; Friendsville; Frostburg Ambulance; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Mt. Savage; Oakland; Orleans; Rawlings; Tri – Towns Rescue and Southern Garrett Rescue.

Companies present were: Accident; Baltimore Pike; Barton Hose; Bedford Road; Bowling Green; Clarysville; Cresaptown; Cumberland Hose; District16; Eastern Garrett; Ellerslie; George's Creek; Good Will; Luke; Midland; Northern Garrett; Oldtown; and Potomac.

All officers were in attendance with the exception of the Secretary.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:

President Kidwell recognized the following 9 Past Presidents in attendance: Robert E. Knippenburg; James F. Decker; Ron Grabenstein; Calvin 'Pete' Walbert; Michael A. Simmons; Timothy F. Dayton; Clarence B. Broadwater; Denny R. Mallery and Barbara A. Knippenburg.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests present and recognized by President Kidwell were: Mary Carr, PP LA AGCVFRA; Betty Grabenstein, PP and Secretary LA AGCVFRA; Doug Alexander, MSFA Trustee; Dick DeVore, Allegheny Co. Emergency Services; Miss Morgan Blank, Jr. Miss Western Maryland; Miss Shelby Simmons, AGCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention; Bill Valentine, Allegheny Co. Commissioner; Dwayne Kitis MIEMSS; Mike Davis, Candidate for 2nd Vice President MSFA; and Mark Widmeyer, Candidate for Allegheny Co. Commissioner.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Due to the absence of the secretary, PP Barb Knippenburg filled in for the meeting.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Bowser sent the February meeting minutes for the day's meeting and e-mailed them to all companies and executive committee members. The minutes were approved with one correction by motion from Doug Wilson and seconded by Robert Knippenburg.

Communications – None

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Shuhart reported the following fund balances: Savings Certificates: General Fund - \$14,044.09; Plaque Fund CD - \$2,928.34; Plaque Fund Cash \$94.00; Checking Account \$3,872.24; Prime Saver \$2,457.54; and Fire Prevention Scholarship Fund \$675.79.

Bills on hand were read: Mailroom (Bulletin) \$348.90; totaling \$348.90. It was motioned by Jim Decker and seconded by Jim Dawson to pay the bills. Motion passed.

Agency Reports –

MFRI – Todd Dyche – The following report was received:

Class Update in Allegheny / Garrett County

Notes:

1. Numbers in parentheses indicates total pre-registered students
2. *Red color, bold, and italicized font indicates additional enrollment needed for class to start
3. **EVO at Southern Garrett only needs one more student to go! Deadline extended to March 10, 2014.**

Report Date: March 2, 2014

Class	Location	Start Date	# of Students	Status	Registration Closes
EMT	Garrett College	Fall 2013	8	Completed	Closed
Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)	WMRTC	Jan. 19, 2014	29	Active	Closed
EMT	WMRTC	Jan. 25, 2014	14	Active	Closed
Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)	Oakland VFD	Feb. 11, 2014	18	Active	Closed
EMT Refresher	Eastern Garrett	Feb. 15, 2014	26	Active	Closed
Instructor I	WMRTC	March 3, 2014	(14)	Active	Closed
EMR	Baltimore Pike	March 4, 2014	(14)	Active	Closed
*Rescue Tech: Site Ops	Garrett College	March 8, 2014	(8)	Canceled	Closed
*EVO	Southern Garrett Rescue	March 15, 2014	(11)	Open	Feb. 26, 2014
Pump Operator	Shaft	March 16, 2014	(15)	Active	Closed
Haz Mat Technician	Garrett College	March 20, 2014	(13)	Active	Closed
*Rescue Tech: Trench	WMRTC	April 5, 2014	(11)	Open	March 16, 2014
*EMT Refresher	Garrett College	April 12, 2014	(8)	Open	March 23, 2014
Rescue Tech: Rope	Garrett College	April 12, 2014	(13)	Open/Active	March 23, 2014
*EMR (First Responder) Refresher	Orleans	April 13, 2014	(6)	Open	March 24, 2014
*NIMS Incident Command for EMS	Garrett College	April 14, 2014	(0)	Open	March 25, 2014
*Pump Operator	Deer Park	April 22, 2014	(2)	Open	April 2, 2014
Instructor II	WMRTC	April 24, 2014	(8)	Open/Active	April 4, 2014

Additional Informational Items

1. Specialty course requests are due by March 10 to your county training coordinator.
 - o These classes include:
 - Fire Department Safety Officer
 - Fire Officer IV
 - HazMat Technician
 - Inspector I and II
 - Rescue Tech: Rope
 - Rescue Tech: Trench
 - Rescue Tech: Swift Water

2. Company Drills:

- 3 hour training session
 - Fire / rescue / EMS / Haz Mat topics
 - Allotted 2 drills per year per company
 - Drill follows current MFRI lesson plan
 - Can be done on site or at WMRTC
 - All instructors are provided free of charge
 - Provide 30 days notice to regional office
3. Pre-register online at <http://www.mfri.org/cqi-bin/seminars.cqi> for the following training opportunities:
- Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar – March 22 at MFRI HQ
 - Firefighter Skills – April 12 at WMRTC
 - Rural Water Supply – May 10 & 17 at Grantsville VFD
4. Pre-register online at <http://www.mfri.org/cqi-bin/schedule.cqi?S=Online> for the following training opportunities:
- EMT Refresher (12 hours) – March 19
 - EVO – April 15
5. Please remember that we need your support when classes are running, especially Firefighter I and II. During class we may need to request through students the support of apparatus. Additionally, we will attempt to rotate requests in the class so no individual company is constantly sending apparatus.

Garrett County Assn. – The next meeting will be held March 26th at Eastern Garrett at 7:30 p.m.

Christian Firefighters – Chaplain Walbert reported the A. Mike Walter’s Chapter of Christian Firefighters met at Midland on March 1st. The response was by Auxiliary President Leah Youngblood. Pam Kyle read a poem “Spring is Around the Corner”. The Invocation and Blessing was given by Chaplain Walbert. The pledge was led by Clarence Broadwater.

Joys and Concerns were given by Chaplain Walbert. The speaker was Rev. Tom Morgan. Mary Carr read the minutes of the previous meeting. Birthdays were recognized. The Sunshine committee sent out seven Get Well and one Sympathy Card. The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at Friendsville on April 5th starting at 8:30 am.

Allegany County Emergency Services – Dick DeVore reported. He said they were trying to recover from the virus that penetrated the Allconet web server. They are looking at a new location for Barton Power as they continue the tower project.

VCAF – No Report.

EMS Board – The next meeting will be held on 7th.

MIEMSS – Dwayne Kitis reported. The search for Dr. Bass’s replacement continues.

MSFA – MSFA Trustee Doug Alexander extended greetings from the officers. They have been very busy in Annapolis. He mentioned three bills that are of special concern. The 508 Bill is out of sub-committee without the attachment that would have taken 49% of the funds from the volunteers. The Tax exemption bill would increase the exemption from \$3500 to \$4000 next year, \$4500 the next year; and \$5000 the next year and so on with a cap of \$7,000. Both of these bills are looking favorable at this time. The third is a gaming bill which will probably not pass. MSFA is planning to purchase a new car for next year. Currently, the cost is \$5000 under the projected cost. The issue with the Trustee’s monies, a needed increase, due to the increase in the number of LODD’s and an increase in the amount going to the widows/widowers, 3 orphans, and 6 disabilities. If you have a claim or think you might have a claim, contact a Trustee to let them know as soon as possible. Forms must be submitted within 30 days. Doug is seeking to be re-elected into the Trustee position this year at Convention.

A motion was made by Clarence Broadwater and seconded by Tim Dayton to support Doug Alexander for Trustee. The motion carried by voice vote.

Mike Davis, Candidate for MSFA 2nd Vice President reminded all companies to get their member names in for the awards. Deadlines are fast approaching.

Tim Dayton noted he had the MSFA Raffle tickets and distributed to those present.

The MSFA Executive Committee met at Cordova VFD on Feb. 22 & 23, 2014. His report follows:

MFRI –Recent incidents around the country have brought to light the need to ensure law enforcement, emergency medical services and emergency management are collaborating to have common plans to respond to incidents involving an assailant causing or threatening harm with a firearm or explosive device. Recent literature suggests a rapid and aggressive response to subdue the aggressor and provide care to the injured before a scene is completely secured is required to prevent further injury and save the lives of those injured. Such a response must be well coordinated between all disciplines and ensure no responders are forced into situations that threaten their safety due to inadequate security, lack personal protective equipment or training or the lack of a unified command structure. Additionally, general guidelines for response must be consistent across the state to ensure effective response, should response across political subdivisions be necessary.

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems and the Maryland State Police will co-host an interdisciplinary work group to investigate the current literature investigating response to these incidents, suggest general guidelines for response, make suggestions to ensure adequate levels of protection, develop consistent learning objectives to guide response training across the state and finally identify gaps and resources to address those deficiencies.

MFRI is a part of this planning process and Assistant Director Larry Preston is the Chair of the Training Sub-Committee and is working with various emergency response disciplines to develop a general plan of the training necessary to safely mitigate such occurrences.

MFRI has conducted a number of “Active Shooter” seminars and will continue to present this material. In addition, The MFRI Incident Command Simulation Center is working on the development of four active shooter scenarios to present with our simulation training.

The Maryland Chief Officers Seminar will be conducted this year on April 26-27th at the University System of Maryland Shady Grove Conference Center. The audience for this seminar is personnel having emergency services line or staff officer responsibilities. An announcement has been distributed and registration closes on April 18, 2014.

Bylaws – The Constitution and By-Law Committee had two bylaws change requests, which were previously submitted to the Executive Committee, and which has been submitted to the Association Secretary for distribution to the Companies and placed on this June's ballot. They are from Mount Airy Fire Company, changes in Benefits Administered by the Trustees, and from Easton Fire Department, Minimum Standards for fire companies. The Executive Committee has until March 18, 2014 to make any changes. Thereafter is must inform the Secretary to forward the proposed by-law changes to member companies for voting on at the MSFA Convention in June, 2014.

OSFM – MFIRS: We will be working with MSFA and MIEMSS on software that will allow MFIRS and the Ambulance Reporting System to connect with each other thus eliminating duplicate reporting.

Maryland Youth Fire Intervention Coalition: The Maryland Youth Fire Intervention Coalition made up of representatives from several agencies and departments continue to make progress in addressing juvenile fire setting issues in Maryland.

Save the Date: March 22, 2013 - Public Educator & Life Safety Seminar will be held at MFRI in College Park.

Public Fire & Life Safety Grant Program: In order to support the fire and life safety educational efforts of local fire companies, the OSFM in partnership with the Maryland State Firemen’s Association is continuing the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program.

This program is designed to provide assistance to MSFA member companies by providing funding assistance in the form of fire prevention publications and supplies for the development, continuation or enhancement of local public fire and life safety education efforts. Information on this program was sent via MSFA to all departments on February 5, 2014.

Fire and Life Safety Information Exchange Program: As a reminder, the Maryland Fire and Life Safety Information Exchange Program website is: www.mdlifesafety.org.

US Fire Administration – “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” Initiative: The U.S. Fire Administration has moved forward with the “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” action plan. All members of the fire service are being encouraged to begin use of the initiative materials and logos immediately. The graphic and theme have been made available using the:

www.usfa.fema.gov/fireiseveryonesfight website.

Deputy Chief Michael Mulligan Regional Commander of the Lower Eastern Shore Office and Deputy Fire Marshal Ryan Chapman of the Western Regional Office are both retiring from the agency this month. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service and wish them well for their future. With the departure of Deputy Chief Mulligan Chief Deputy Joseph Flanagan has transferred to the Lower Easter Shore Regional Office where he will assume the duties as the regional commander.

FM also spoke about the hording issues in the state – 1 fire death already this year was related to horning. More on this at OC. Current fire deaths are at 10.

DNR – Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant program for 2013 has been completed. Reimbursement payment request were received and reviewed from 39 of the 43 fire departments that were awarded grant funds in 2013 for a completion

rate of 91%. Grant payments were made to all 39 departments for 78,182 with 87% of awarded funds distributed. Remaining funds will be reallocated and used to purchase fire rakes and bladder bags to resupply inventory for distribution at fire department request. The 2014 VFA grant program funding has not yet been received from the US Forest Service but appears at this point to be near level funding. We anticipate receiving our grant award information by May. The 2014 application period will open in early May. I expect to have more information available at the next executive committee meeting.

VCAF - Let Pat report on this.

State Interoperability Executive Committee – The state continues forward with the Maryland First 700 MHz radio system. The completion of the Eastern Shore with the inclusion of all MSP barrack's and SHA district offices is still being developed and should be completed within first quarter of 2014. The Central Maryland region will begin development in 2014. There has been a decrease of anticipated funding,

thus a slight scaling back of the project timeline. The implementation of the system on the Eastern Shore does provide an opportunity for some counties to follow the direction of Kent County to utilize the Maryland First radio system as local radio systems reach the end life cycle. Parallel to the Maryland First radio system implementation, a statewide computer aided dispatch system is also being installed in all Maryland State Police Barracks. There have been some concerns the MSP CAD will not be interoperable with local CAD systems, but the most recent meetings have indicated this issue can be resolved on a case by case basis. This project is a giant move forward in technology for most MPS barrack's. On January

Risk Management Committee – We received an inquiry regarding the Maryland Firefighter Cancer Presumption legislation. HB1101 was passed during the 2012 legislative session that expanded the definition of cancer presumption. There were concerns raised by the municipalities regarding the possible effect on workers compensation rates. As a result, in 2013, HB1314 was introduced to delay the implementation of the broadened definition and study the legislation and possible narrow the definition to provide some form of cause and effect. This legislation was withdrawn. Thus, the broadened scope of HB1101 is within the present law.

Trustee – We wish to remind everyone that the Trustees need to have claims filed in a timely fashion. We request that LODI claims be filed within 30 days of occurrence and notification of the Trustees of the possible claim within 10 days. We request that LODD claims be filed within 90 days of death with notification of possible claim within 10 days of occurrence. We will present our updated report at the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday

Grants – The Grants Committee submitted an application to the AFG SAFER program on behalf of the MSFA. Over the past several weeks, we have participated in discussions with FEMA, and the Presidents of the MSFA and MFCA to discuss the details of our applications. FEMA has recommended that we combine the MSFA and MFCA applications and we are working on an alternate task list to meet this request

Congratulations to the 41 non-profit organizations (30 were volunteer companies) that received grants up to \$10,000 from Baltimore Gas and Electric. I had the honor of attending their press conference on January 30 where it was noted that this was the second year for the grant program, with each year providing over \$350,000 in grants.

MCAC – Public health officials across Maryland and other states are concerned with current trends with Fentanyl laced heroin. This deadly combination of drugs has resulted in more than 37 deaths across the state of Maryland. The combination of heroin and fentanyl creates a drug cocktail that is nearly 100 times as strong as heroin alone, making it an attractive combination to addicts. Addicts are also likely to engage in other criminal activity in order to generate revenue to support their drug habit. Due to its potency, the risk of overdose or death is a greater risk. The drug is so strong that it does not have to be injected to provide an effect of the drug; therefore, it is critical that emergency responders take appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of absorbing its chemicals through skin contact.

I want to express my thanks to the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association for inviting me as a guest speaker at their meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee to provide an overview of the MCAC, the current homeland security threat environment, and the role of the public sector in reporting suspicious activity. I have also accepted invitations from MFRI to present at the Chief Officers Seminar and from MIEMSS to present at the EMS Care Conference. If your associations would like to have me as a guest speaker, please contact me and I would be happy to attend your meeting

NVFC – On Feb. 10, the IRS released the final implementing regulations for the PPACA's Shared Responsibility Provision. These regulations contained an exemption for nominally compensated volunteer firefighters and EMTs. According to the final rule, volunteer and combination fire departments will not be required to offer health insurance to "bona fide volunteers." The IRS rule allows volunteers to receive reasonable benefits and nominal fees, while still retaining their status as a "bona fide volunteer." Additionally, the IRS broadly applied this definition and exempted any nominally compensated volunteers for governmental entities or non-profit organizations. This broad application will also exempt volunteers through programs such as CERT, FIRECORPS, fire police, and auxiliary organizations.

However, in the final rule, the IRS did not establish a clear definition for “reasonable benefits” and “nominal fees.” The NVFC will continue encouraging the IRS to create a clear definition for these terms and clarify how much compensation a volunteer can receive. *Please see the attached IRS Regulation on the issue for more information.*

FY 2014 Appropriations - The House and Senate passed a year-long continuing resolution (CR) that will fund all federal agencies through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014. AFG and SAFER will each receive \$340 million, a \$2.5 million increase from last year; USFA will receive \$44 million and VFA will receive \$13.025 million, both flat funded from last year. For AFG/SAFER it is likely that about the same level of funding will be available for grants as it was last year. The increase is nice and the impact of the Sequester is expected to be much less painful as a result of the budget agreement that the House and Senate reached last month. It doesn't appear that program administration funding will be coming out of the FEMA S&E account anymore. This means funds will be taken out of grant funds, as they always had been prior to last year when they suffered from the impact of the sequester. Getting back to flat funding is good news for USFA as it will mean an increase in the actual funds they have available this year (because they'll be losing less due to the sequester). On VFA, the fire service might have had a chance to get increased funding if the Interior Appropriations bill had gone through the regular process of being considered in committee and on the House and Senate floors but that never happened so there wasn't an opportunity to have an amendment offered. The President's budget proposed cuts to both USFA and VFA, so getting back to flat funding is at least a small victory, particularly for VFA since the House's Interior Appropriations bill as introduced included the cut that the President had proposed.

Representatives John Larson (D-CT) and Tom Latham (R-IA) introduced the *Volunteer*

Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (VRIPRA/H.R. 3747). This is the bill that exempts property tax benefits and up to \$600 per year of other taxable benefits that volunteers received from being taxed as income.

EMS – Ambulance Safety Summit: The Ambulance Safety Summit held in November was a success. The Ambulance Safety Committee's 6 primary points for ambulance safety were discussed and agreed upon by everyone present. The MSFA EMS Committee has voted to support these six points. These points were sent out to the Executive Committee in early January and we are asking that for motion to support them.

They are:

1. Screen ambulance drivers;
2. Insure effective initial driver training and periodic refresher training;
3. Increase the use of restraints and safety improvements during ambulance operations;
4. Reduce the incidence of excessive ambulance speeds and routine use of “lights and sirens”;
5. Improve monitoring of ambulance safety issues and enforcement of safety practices;
6. Create an ongoing statewide forum for ambulance safety issues.

EMS plan: The comment phase is closed; no issues with the core points. MIEMSS has taken all Comments/concerns and have incorporated those into a document and will be moving forward

Cardiac arrest Emergency Medical Dispatch recommendations: MIEMSS is encouraging jurisdictions to use the latest version (12.2 now, upgrading to 13 in May) of EMD to recognize and initiate CPR in cardiac arrests quickly

Proposed protocol updates for July 1, 2015 include:

- Oxygen will be titrated using the oxygen saturation instead of a set number.
- Narcan will be mandatory for BLS providers beginning in July. Dose is 1ml max per nare. This is for unconscious/ reduced respiratory effect patients only.
- 12 leads will be required after every cardiac arrest ROSC patient.
- Some of the medication maximum doses have been changed.
- Acupressure will become available (there is evidence this reduces nausea).
- Stroke protocol – possible stroke will be called a stroke alert on consult. The window from last known normal is increased from 2 to 4.5 hours.
- Hemostatic impregnated dressings will be added beginning July 1 for areas where a tourniquet cannot be used.
- Multiple casualty unusual events will be added so assets can be available.
- Optional high performance CPR protocol will be available for application. This addresses the pit crew concept that can be used in all jurisdictions.

MSP aviation: 3 sections were transitioned to the new helicopter in 2013. Trooper 7 will begin transition on January 27. Troopers 5, 2 and 1 should be completed by September. There are still pilot and medical positions open if interested.

MIEMSS – *MIEMSS is Updating the Statewide Plan.* The Maryland State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Plan is being updated and MIEMSS has solicited input from the EMS community and the general public through a series of public meetings that were held across the State. Meetings were held in all five MIEMSS Regions; as well as one meeting at MIEMSS. Excellent feedback and comments were received. MIEMSS leadership is currently reviewing the documents

Storage of IV Fluids
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reporting a severe shortage of IV fluids across the nation-particularly 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline). The cause of the shortage is being compounded by increased demand during flu season and recent issues with manufacturer s. Because many institutions have transitioned to using Lactated Ringer's solution during the shortage, a pervasive nationwide shortage of both solutions is occurring. While the FDA is working with major manufacturers to match demand and abate a long term shortage, it is likely that EMS systems will be impacted until the situation is resolved. This memo will provide recommendations to help guide the use of intravenous solutions until they become more readily accessible.

- (1) When appropriate, EMS providers should use an IV saline lock rather than IV fluids at KVO.
- (2) EMS services should coordinate with local hospitals to establish a temporary policy regarding distribution of IV fluids to ensure mutual availability.
- (3) The use of Lactated Ringer's solution should be restricted to patients requiring fluid resuscitation.
 - a. Consider using both 500 mL and IL bags to administer fluid.
 - b. Providers should take a more conservative approach to fluid administration and consider restricting fluid challenges to those with outward signs of shock (e.g., altered mental status, hypotension).
- (4) EMS systems should inventory their stock of IV fluids and allocate them in a controlled manner, allowing for continued tracking to anticipate critical shortages.
- (5) If critical shortage is reached, IV fluids should be removed from non-transport units (e.g., medic engines) and placed on transport ambulances.

Please contact the Office of the State EMS Medical Director at 410-706-0881 with any question

MIEMSS has improved the Online Training Center for EMS providers and other users. As MIEMSS continues to move forward with its distance learning initiatives, providing quality continuing education for providers across Maryland, this system upgrade promises to offer you increased interactivity and usability.

There are a few items to keep in mind when you log on to the new Online Training Center: Access the Online Training Center using the same links as before. From MIEMSS homepage (www.miemss.org), click the "Online Training Center" link on the left-hand side of the page to access the training content. The username is still the provider ID number, which is the seven-digit number on the certification card that starts with a zero. ALL passwords in the new system have been reverted back to date of birth as listed in MIEMSS' records. The date of birth should be entered in a "mmddyyyy" format (example: March 30, 1966, would be 03301966). Once access to the Online Training Center is obtained, you are encouraged change your password and update the email address in the user profile. A correct email address is required for the lost password function to work correctly. Printable certificates that were earned for online courses completed prior to August 9, 2013, are no longer available in the system. However, all of these previous completions have been entered into your continuing education record.

Secretary Office – The Credential Form is up and running on the web page. Several member department/companies have gone on line and completed the form. The companies that have registered are about the same as it was last year at this time. It is requested that when you travel to the different county association meeting, please remind the member department/companies to complete the form and that they can only serve one department/company as a delegate or alternate. This year, if we find that a person has been registered as a delegate or alternate for more than one company/department, the credential form will be removed from the file and returned to the company for correction.

MSP AC – AW139 Transition Plan: On January 27th, Trooper 7 (Southern Maryland Section) began transitioning into the AW139. All pilots and medics will go through a 6-8 week transition course that consists of one week of ground school and 4 weeks of mission flight training, and outreach training with EMS providers. Trooper 4 is operational on a 24/7 basis now. Currently, the plan is to transition Trooper 2 or 5 next.

► **Pilot Recruiting:** THE MSPAC has received approval to fill 20 SIC Pilot positions. The MSPAC has hired 2 pilots in the last month, with 2 offers pending. The MSPAC has completed 10 pilot interviews this past week and will conduct 20 pilot interviews between now and the 15th of March.

► Trooper 4 Ribbon Cutting: MSPAC will mark the full-service deployment of the new AW-139 helicopter with a ribbon cutting at the Salisbury Section on March 5th at 1300 hrs. An email invite will follow next week, but we want MSFA Leadership to be aware and hope everyone will be able to attend.

Training – The Training Committee continues to work on our two goals which are to update the Ten Year Training Plan and increasing participation in the Zembower Training Award. We have one or possibly 2 meeting left to gather information for the Ten Year Plan up-date. We have held three meetings since the Executive Committee meeting in Ferndale.

Risk Watch – For the 2014 MSFA Convention, we look forward to adding a new component to the Risk Watch/ Safe Kids interactive displays that will focus on Tween and Teen age groups. Each year these young people stop by the teaching space to look inside and see if there is anything for them to do. Next year we plan to have something challenging and can be delivered in a “Teachable Moment”. We know they also want to spend time in the exhibits and on the beach. We will work closely with the convention committee and maximize whatever space if available for Risk Watch and Fire Prevention.

The RISK WATCH team has four objectives at Convention:

1. To provide young children and school age children hands on education experiences to be safer in their homes & communities through both psychomotor skills and new knowledge about high risk injuries
2. To provide young life safety advocates (tweens, teens and young adults) with a mentored experience and specific lesson plans to work with younger children and their families
3. To empower parents and care providers with knowledge on both the risks and the prevention strategies to keep everyone safer in their home and community (infants through seniors)
4. To demonstrate interactive safety displays based upon evidence based and best practices for life safety advocates across Maryland’s EMS, Fire & Rescue services

As always we are recruiting volunteers to help at the interactive teaching stations – please email riskwatch@msfa.org if you know adults and youth who would like to participate at next year’s Convention – we provide onsite training and request as little as a 2 hour commitment. Help is primarily needed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Incentives Programs Committee – Maryland State Tax Incentive Program

County tax incentive reports are now due. As a reminder, in order for company members to receive their Maryland tax incentive deduction the reports must include their social security number. It is one of the items required by the Comptrollers office in order to identify the taxpayer. Without it, the member will not be allowed to take their deduction and if they do they will have to pay it back with interest and penalty. In order to protect the social security numbers a protected website collection point has been developed by Rick Hemphill of Washington County. The County “Points Coordinator” can now upload their yearly report using a password via this protected site. The reports can then be collected, assembled in the proper format and hand delivered to the Comptrollers office, all totally protected. All reports must be collected by the Incentives Committee no later then May 30, 2014 for the taxable year 2013. Full instructions have been published to the Points Coordinators.

Fire Prevention – The committee wishes to announce the following and in request to the Executive Committee that we be granted the following two programs to be submitted for a Fire Act Grant – Fire Prevention and Safety (FPS) Grant in the amount of \$676,000

Program 1: State Smoke Alarm Program in the amount of \$576,000.00. The design of the program is to facilitate a statewide awareness and install program to expand the Maryland Fire Code for the 10 year smoke alarm and for the hard of hearing smoke alarm to meet the requirements of NFPA 72.

Program 2: Hoarding Awareness Program conducted in partnership with the Maryland State Fire Marshal Office in the amount of \$100,000.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-Laws – Nothing to report.

Convention – Pete Walbert noted that plans are coming along. Any questions call: 301.697.7024. He noted that ads notices and meal tickets will be mailed soon. Transportation to and from the church has been arranged. The prayer breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Dinner will be held from 17:00 – 19:00 hrs. at the community building. The parade will begin at 18:00 hrs.

Fire Prevention/Education –

Note: Fire Prevention & Education Committee’s Monthly Safety Fact # 92 to be included within the minutes and “The Bulletin”.

Effects of sleep deprivation

It can be difficult for on-duty firefighters and emergency responders to get a good night's rest. Being immediately awoken to attend calls during the night can result in sleep deprivation.

The U.S. Fire Administration teamed up with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and faculty from Oregon Health and Science University, to study the effects of sleep deprivation on members of the fire and emergency services.

Learn more about the study's findings in a report and training videos on the [IAFC website](#), including:

- **The impact sleep deprivation has on job performance for the fire and emergency services.**
- **Health effects of sleep deprivation.**
- **Ways to reduce sleep deprivation.**

Dennis Mallery noted that Fire Prevention Booklets are due next meeting.

MSFA Jr. Miss Fire Prevention Contest will be held March 8th at 12:00 hrs. at Potomac Fire Company. Donna asked for guidance on what to do with the gowns that have been donated for use by the contestants. She is unable to store them any longer. Those who donated them do not want them back. A motion was made by Ron Grabenstein and seconded by Tim Dayton to turn the dresses over to a consignment shop in Accident to be sold and proceeds donated to the AGCVFRA Fire Prevention Scholarship fund. Shelby Simmons will be handling the transaction. The motion passed.

Insurance/Benefits – John Shuhart reported that since the last meeting Relief Fund payments were made for Wayne Connor, Corriganville. If any company belonging to the Relief Fund and has a member die, please give me a call so that I may send out the check.

I have received payment from Corriganville this month for the accident insurance. We finally got all payments completed for the Accident Insurance and Mosholder Insurance is paid in full.

I have received the Relief fund payments. They were due February 15th. There are still some companies that are due including: Barton Auxiliary; Bedford Road and Auxiliary; Clarysville and Auxiliary; Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park Auxiliary; Flintstone and Auxiliary; George's Creek Ambulance; Northern Garrett Rescue; Midland and Auxiliary; Oldtown and Auxiliary; and Orleans. Please read the instructions and do what they say. It will pay off in the long run with beneficiary changes.

Public Relations – Please continue to send election results from your companies to be published in *The Bulletin*.

Special Ops – No Report.

Past Presidents – Clarence Broadwater reported on the Past Presidents meeting at Penn Alps. There will be no meeting in March.

Special Awards – A reminder was for all departments to send in their nominations for the awards at this year's annual convention. As departments hold their annual banquets, so send in your nominees for any of the awards.

Training – Registration is changing. After the first of the year, one must register on-line at the MFRI website. In Allegany County requests go to Tim Dayton and for Garrett County, send them to Jean Tressler.

Recruitment/Retention – Nothing new to report.

Public Relations – Any company having information, please forward to the editor for inclusion into the *'The Bulletin'*.

Sprinklers – Nothing new.

Statistics – John – Please turn the statistics into John after you file them on-line. Print a copy for his files. A total of 26 companies have sent reports to John; four from out of the association. Reports from Allegany County companies must be in to receive the April appropriation.

Career Center & 5-10 Year – No report from either committee.

UNFISHISHED BUSINESS:

Dick DeVore reported that the smoke alarms purchased by AES grant are gone. They are working on an additional \$10,000 for more alarms. He is keeping a list of those who need smoke alarms.

The Western Maryland Jr. Miss Pageant will be held on Sunday April 27th at Flintstone at 1:00 p.m. A workshop will be held in March at Bowling Green.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

John Shuhart reported the Corporation papers have been received and are due by April 16th. Make sure your company's paperwork get submitted.

Barb Knippenburg reported that the three companies still need to submit addresses for smoke alarms installed. Clarysville, Bowman's Addition, and Cresaptown still need to get their information in.

Donna Struntz made a motion to support Mike Davis for MSFA 2nd Vice President. Clarence Broadwater seconded and the motion passed.

It was reminded to all that there are a lot of awards given in Ocean City at Convention. Rules are on-line at MSFA.org.

All MSFA registrations are now required to be sent in electronically. There are no more hard copies. The registrations are to be sent to MSFA Secretary Doyle Cox on-line.

Don't forget the Wills for Hero's program. Forms are available.

The next meeting will be held at Baltimore Pike on Sunday April 6th at 2:00 p.m.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held in Friendsville on Saturday April 5th at 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Walbert gave the benediction and the blessing of the meals.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara A. Knippenburg

Barbara A. Knippenburg

Acting Secretary